



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

8 MARCH 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Beaumont – QAnon Supporter That Attended Capitol Riot Sentenced

(U) A Beaumont man and self-described follower of "QAnon" pleaded guilty to federal charges for attending the riot at the US Capitol and was sentenced to probation on 7 March. A Federal Judge ordered the newly convicted defendant, Kevin Strong, 45, to serve two-years of probation, including 30 days of home detention. He must also pay \$500 in restitution and perform 60 hours of community service. Strong had been charged after surrendering to authorities on 22 January 2021, with entering restricted grounds, disorderly conduct in a restricted building, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) Beverly Hills – Two Men Sentenced to Prison for Hate-Motivated Attack at Turkish Restaurant

(U) Two men who carried out a hate-motivated attack at a Turkish restaurant in Beverly Hills in 2020 were sentenced to federal prison terms Monday. William Stepanyan was sentenced to five-years in federal prison, according to the US attorney's office for the Central District of California. Harutyun Harry Chalikyan was sentenced to one-year, three-months in prison. The two men had previously pleaded guilty to one count each of federal conspiracy and hate crime charges.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) San Diego – City Leaders Address Uptick in Violent Crime

(U) Since the beginning of 2022, San Diego Police have responded to 10 homicides in San Diego which marks an 80% increase over the same period last year. SDPD said they have also responded to 44 non-fatal shootings as well as multiple assaults. This comes as authorities are dealing with a flood of firearms on San Diego streets. In the first two months of this year, SDPD recovered 372 guns, including 77 untraceable "ghost guns." While not the only factor, gang activity is one of the drivers of this violence, according to city leaders, who say that throughout the pandemic, young people, specifically young men, have lacked the resources they need.

SOURCE: 3 March 2022, [CBS 8](#)

(U) San Rafael – Twin Brothers Sentenced for \$2 Million Pandemic Aid Fraud

(U) Two brothers in Marin County have been sentenced for defrauding the federal government of about \$2 million in pandemic relief funds. The brothers conducted separate schemes that involved creating fictitious companies to apply for relief funds, authorities alleged. They did so through the Economic Injury Disaster Loans program and the Paycheck Protection Program, which aimed to help businesses keep workers on the books during the coronavirus crisis. One brother submitted 27 applications for aid for fake companies with fake payroll and tax documents. The scheme netted him more than \$1.7 million in government loans and advances, the prosecution said. The other brother submitted eight fraudulent applications and collected nearly \$500,000 in aid.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [San Jose Mercury News](#)

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(U) District of Columbia – US Lawmakers Seek Permanent Ban on Illicit Types of Fentanyl

(U) Washington DC – A bipartisan trio of US congressmen unveiled new legislation that would permanently ban illicit versions of fentanyl, the powerful synthetic painkiller that has helped fuel the nation's opioid epidemic and death toll. The proposed bill comes days before a temporary ban on chemical copycats of fentanyl known as analogues expires on Friday. For years, the Justice Department's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has been trying to crack down on the proliferation of chemical look-alikes of fentanyl, which are often manufactured in China and shipped into the US from Mexico. Chemists largely based in China have created numerous slightly altered versions of the drug, which along with actual fentanyl have flooded US streets and contributed to nearly 500,000 US opioid overdose deaths over two-decades.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Iowa– Six Teens Charged in Drive-By Shooting Outside High School

(U) Des Moines – Des Moines police released new details in a deadly drive-by shooting yesterday outside of East High School that took the life of a 15-year-old boy. According to police, six teens have been charged with first-degree murder after detectives determined that shots were fired by multiple shooters from multiple vehicles. Police executed six search warrants in Des Moines since the shooting. Police said they have recovered six firearms during the investigation. Police said the 16-year-old female victim remains in serious condition and the 18-year-old female victim remains hospitalized in critical condition.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [KCCI](#)

(U) Tennessee – Oak Ridge Student Charged with Terrorism after Bomb Threat

(U) Knoxville – An Oak Ridge Schools student was arrested Friday for threatening to shoot people and use a bomb at a school. According to an Anderson County District Attorney, a student at the Oak Ridge Secret City Academy made the threat. The school was briefly placed on lockdown. A release from the District Attorney General's office said no firearm or bomb was involved. No injuries were reported. The student faces charges of terrorism, threat of mass violence on school property, and false report. The student was taken into custody and is being held in a juvenile detention center.

SOURCE: 5 March 2022, [WATE](#)

(U) Texas – Trial Accuses Texas Resident of Being 'A Leader' of Assault on US Capitol

(U) Wylie – A federal prosecutor accused a Texas man of being "a leader" of the 6 January 2021, assault on the US Capitol as she wrapped up arguments on Monday in the first criminal trial of someone accused of joining the riot. Guy Reffitt of Texas is the first of some 750 people charged with joining in the riot to face trial in Washington. Reffitt faces five felony charges, including bringing a gun onto the Capitol grounds and obstructing an official proceeding. Reffitt's estranged son Jackson, 19, turned him into the FBI and testified against him last week. If convicted of the most serious charges against him, Reffitt faces a maximum sentence of 20-years in prison, though defendants rarely receive maximum penalties.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mali – French Army Claims They Killed Senior AQIM Leader

(U) Timbuktu – The French army said its anti-militant force in Mali has killed a senior leader of the al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). The force said Yahia Djouadi was responsible for the militant

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group's finance and logistics. Abu Ammar al-Jazairi, was killed overnight around 100-miles north of Timbuktu in central Mali. The group has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks on troops and civilians across the Sahel region, including a 2016 attack on an upmarket hotel and restaurant in Burkina Faso that killed 30 people, mainly Westerners.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [CGTN](#)

(U) Nigeria – Gunmen Kill at Least 62 Vigilantes

(U) Kebbi – Gunmen ambushed and killed at least 62 members of a volunteer vigilante group in Nigeria's northwestern Kebbi state in the worst violence to hit the state since mid-January. Many northwestern states in Nigeria have groups of volunteers who help defend villages and towns from armed gangs as the security forces are stretched fighting Islamist militants and the gangs, known as bandits. A Kebbi police spokesman confirmed the ambush but said he did not have details on how many people had been killed. Gunmen have spread terror across the northwest, where they have kidnapped hundreds of school children and villagers for ransom.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) North Korea – North Korea Could Return to ICBM, Nuclear Test This Year

(U) Pyongyang – North Korea's missile launches could be groundwork for a return to intercontinental ballistic missile and nuclear bomb tests this year for the first time since 2017, the US Directorate of National Intelligence (DNI) said in its annual Worldwide Threat Assessment released on Monday. On Tuesday, US-based analysts said commercial satellite imagery shows construction at North Korea's nuclear testing site for the first time since it was closed in 2018. International experts have also reported that North Korea's main nuclear reactor facility at Yongbyon appears to be in full swing, potentially creating additional fuel for nuclear weapons.

SOURCE: 7 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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